

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EB-11 SAJ-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /121 W

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R 071522Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6717

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GW, GE

SUBJECT: EXFILTRATION: A POLITICAL ISSUE IN FRG

REF: A) BERLIN 1301; B) BONN 11053

SUMMARY: ATTEMPTS BY FRG TO SHOW GOOD FAITH TO GDR ON EXFILTRATION PROBLEM HAVE BECOME A DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE, WITH THE OPPOSITION USING THE PROBLEM TO CHARGE THE GOVERNMENT WITH CONSIDERING TAKING STEPS AGAINST ESCAPEES AND THOSE WHO ASSIST THEM. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REFTELS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY BECOME CONCERNED LEST THE UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE NUMBER OF ESCAPEES FROM THE GDR, AS WELL AS THE UNDISGUISED MANNER IN WHICH THOSE IN THE EXFILTRATION BUSINESS ADVERTISE THEIR SERVICES IN THE PRESS, CAUSE THE GDR TO INVOKE ARTICLE 16 (2) OF THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT (TTA) OR TAKE OTHER ACTION WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE HITHERTO SMOOTH WORKING OF THE

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AGREEMENT. THE FRG HAS TAKEN STEPS AIMED AT SHOWING THE

GDR THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ACTING IN GOOD FAITH, AND SHARPLY CRITICIZED EXFILTRATION OPERATIONS WORKING ONLY FOR PROFIT. "DER SPIEGEL" COMMENTED IN ITS AUGUST 6 ISSUE THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL EXFILTRATIONS HAVE BEEN A SURPRISE TO EVERYBODY AND IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED THAT THE GDR WILL STAND IDLY BY INDEFINITELY.

2. AT AUGUST 3 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (BLECH) REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DISCUSSING EXFILTRATION AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL DURING WEEK OF AUGUST 6 AND THAT FURTHER OFFICIAL STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE SOME TIME THEREAFTER. HOWEVER, THIS TIMETABLE WAS UPSET BY ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OVER THE WEEK END BY MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION AND BY "DIE WELT", BOTH CHARGING THAT ANY MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST EXFILTRATORS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO HUMAN RIGHTS (OF WOULD-BE ESCAPEES) AND SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE OTHER SIDE. MOST OF THE PRESS, HOWEVER, HAS TAKEN A MODERATE LINE HELPFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE "SPIEGEL" ARTICLE MENTIONED ABOVE PORTRAYS THE FRG POSITION AS THE ONLY REASONABLE COURSE TO TAKE.

3. REACTING TO THE ATTACKS, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR ADDRESSED THE ISSUE AT AN AUGUST 6 PRESS CONFERENCE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE THE TTA MUST NOT BE PUT IN JEOPARDY NO NEW LAWS AIMED AT THE EXFILTRATION PROBLEM ARE FORESEEN, NO GDR REFUGEES WILL BE RETURNED, AND THE GOVERNMENT IS MOST CONCERNED WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMERCIAL EXFILTRATIONS. IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE STATE SECRETARY COMMITTEE ON GERMAN AND BERLIN QUESTIONS WILL MEET AUGUST 8 TO CONSIDER MEASURES WHICH COULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE PROFESSIONALS. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE IN MIND IS A CONTINUING HARASSING OF THE PROFESSIONALS USING PRESENT LAWS, SUCH AS THOSE AGAINST PASSPORT FORGERY. BUT THIS IS A FAR CRY FROM WHAT SOME OF THE OPPOSITION IS CHARGING THE GOVERNMENT WITH HAVING UNDER CONSIDERATION.  
HILLENBRAND

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